GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:62
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
TEST ON UTILITY OF BT COTTON HYBRIDS
MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research is conducting test on utility of Bt. Cotton hybrids, from the point of view of its production in Northern parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) by when the said tests are likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government have taken any decision with regard to yield of Bt. Cotton in Northern India, till the tests are completed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the policy of the Union Government on the use of Bt. Cotton technology?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ICAR is conducting evaluation of eight Bt cotton hybrids in the three northern states of Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana through the All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project (AICCIP) centres during Kharif, 2003 season. These centres are :

1. Chowdhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.

2. Punjab Agricultural University, Research Station, Faridkot.

3. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.

4. Central Institute for Cotton Research, Regional Station, Sirsa.

5. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Research Station, Sriganganagar.

(c) Under the AICCIP system, two years multilocation trials are normally required for Bt cotton hybrids for consideration of results.

(d) No, Sir. The decision with regard to yield of Bt Cotton in northern India will depend upon the results of the two-years multilocational trials.

(e) Question does not arise, Sir.

(f) Bt technology in cotton is useful for incorporating resistance/tolerance against the damage due to American bollworm. It is expected that this technology should be placed in location-specific and agronomically proven cotton genotypes to obtain better yield under farmers` field conditions. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) set up in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has approved commercial cultivation of three Bt Cotton hybrids of Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company for a period of three years in Central and South zones of the Country.